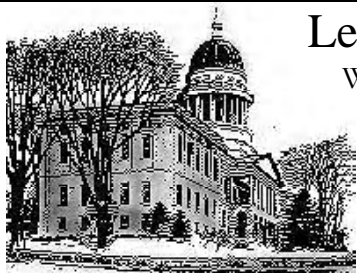




# Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program \* July 2005*



## Legislative Up-Date

While the Maine Legislature focused on budget concerns this session, they also considered some solid waste legislation. Many of the bills were di-

rectly related to landfill activity; however a few other items were also handled – including the extension of the statewide recycling goal.

### **LD 141 An Act To Ensure Proper Disposal of Demolition Debris/Protection of the Environment**

This bill would have banned the importation of construction/demolition debris into the state for disposal.

**Outcome:** the bill was a vehicle to carry a concern regarding possible harmful releases from the incineration of construction/demolition debris. The Department of Environmental Protection has been directed to conduct a study and produce a report on the source, volume, and management of construction/demolition debris in Maine.

### **LD 381 An Act To Enhance the Safe Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste**

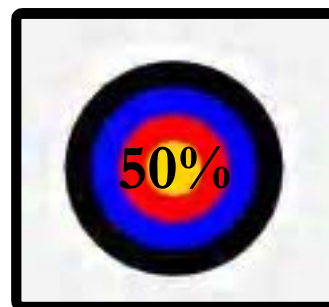
This bill would have required municipal officials in each county to designate two transfer stations or recycling centers in each county to accept HHW for disposal by residents on a year-round basis. **Outcome:** this bill was identical to one introduced last year (which was defeated). LD 381 was discussed, an overview of the current HHW programs in the state was had and the committee was sympathetic to the need of managing HHW properly but was unable to support the bill. **Sidebar:** a publicly funded HHW collection facility is under construction in Lewiston that will provide a level of opportunity for residents of the Androscoggin County area.

### **LD 406 An Act To Amend the Dates Associated with the State's Recycling and Waste Reduction Goals**

Current statute has the state achieving the 50% recycling goal by 2003, which was not reached. The bill would push the date out to 2009. The bill also clarified that the

## What to Do? What to Do? What to Do? What Do You Say?

The first session of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature featured revisiting the State's recycling goals. Later this year, the Waste Management and Recycling Program is expected to complete an update of the State Waste Management and Recycling Plan. Of special importance to all of us is reaching the statewide recycling goal of 50%.



For more than a decade, the 50% statewide recycling goal has eluded us. Teasing us with successes in some communities, tempting us with new energies in some municipalities, and discouraging us with a shortfall in others has become the norm of annual reports. Record keeping and reporting have played their parts in describing and documenting performances accurately or, sometimes not at all. The size and demographics of the State of Maine only amplify problems and often hide successes. Staff of the Waste Management and Recycling Program will be visiting facilities in the near future. How can we as a state improve? Your thoughts and ideas are as always welcome. Call us at (207) 287-8053; e-mail us at [bruce.white@maine.gov](mailto:bruce.white@maine.gov) or write us at Waste Management and Recycling Program, Maine State Planning Office, State House Station #38, Augusta, Maine 04333.

*(Cont'd to Page 2)*

## Legislative Up-Date

*(Cont'd from Page 1)*

State's waste reduction goal of 5% was a biennial goal, not an annual one, and would also be pushed out to 2009.

**Outcome:** after much discussion on what has been done and what needs to/will be done, the bill was supported by the committee and voted out 'ought to pass' and signed by the Governor on 5/25/05.

### **LD 597 To Amend the Solid Waste Landfill Laws**

This bill would require that an adjudicatory public hearing be held when an increase in the height of a commercial or state-owned landfill was requested and specifies that the applicant pays the Department's costs in processing the application. It also amends the joint citizen advisory committee for the state-owned landfill to include two representatives of the Penobscot Nation.

**Outcome:** the bill received strong support from the committee. A revised version was passed dropping to one the number of representatives from the Penobscot Nation. Signed by the Governor 6/8/05.

### **LD 880 To Prohibit Municipal Landfill Dumping**

This bill would have directed the Board of Environmental Protection to adopt rules to limit the transfer of bypass waste to landfills and ensure that landfilling is not the primary means for disposal of MSW.

**Outcome:** after discussion, the committee determined the bill was not appropriate and voted 'ought not to pass', but not before getting a commitment from the Department of Environmental Protection to develop clearer guidance on what constitutes 'by-pass waste'.

### **LD 1076 Resolve, To Recognize Alton as a Host Community with Regard to the West Old Town Landfill**

This resolve directs the State Planning Office to grant the Town of Alton status as host community to the state-owned landfill in Old Town, should an event occurs that increases the likelihood of financial or environmental impact to the Town.

**Outcome:** An amended version was passed giving the DEP the right to provide 'host community' status if requested by the Town. The bill was signed by the Governor on 6/2/05.

There were other bills related to lead issues, emissions from resource recovery facilities and other waste related topics. For a full listing of the bills, please visit <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/billtexts/>

## Are You Ready?!!



Maine Recycles Week is about six months from Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. To make for a successful event, it takes a good deal of planning and preparation. Did we say "good deal of planning and preparation"? It takes a great deal of planning and preparation! On May 31,

2005, the Maine Recycles Week Steering Committee met to reaffirm that this year would be another successful Maine Recycles Week.

Actually post cards had been mailed to all of our schools to ask for teachers to plan time in classes to involve students in recycling this fall. The Maine Recycles Week Steering Committee looked to new ways to get the word out and ultimately focused on improving communication at the recycling facilities. A challenge was made to any school competing to improve the communication for educating the public with recycling at home and at their municipal recycling facilities. What would the vehicle look like for such a message? Think about it!

Think about Maine Recycles Week! How can a school, municipality, or business actually help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the local recycling effort.

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## Maine Rises to the Occasion in the Rockies

Boulder, Colorado, was the setting for the annual landfill conference of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). The State Planning Office's Director of the Community Assistance Team, George MacDonald, was invited to address the gathering with a report on the condition of Maine's programs, as well as the status of the West Old Town Landfill project. George shared ideas with fellow professionals from all around the United States and Canada.



**What changes can help Maine to achieve a 50% recycling Rate?**  
**We would like to hear from you.**  
Contact us at [www.recyclemaine.com](http://www.recyclemaine.com)  
or (207) 287-8053.



**State Planning Office**  
**Waste Management & Recycling Program**  
**2005 Survey to Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities**



**Please fold and return completed survey by August 12, 2005**

**Identification**

What is the name of your facility? \_\_\_\_\_

Where are you located? \_\_\_\_\_

What community or communities do you serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the chief contact? \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Person completing the survey \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization**

Are you a part of a larger association or organization? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a recycling committee? \_\_\_\_\_ How many members? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the manager? \_\_\_\_\_

How many employees work at the facilities? Full time \_\_\_\_\_ Part time \_\_\_\_\_

**Assessment & Outlook**

Do you believe that your current recycling program is effective? \_\_\_\_\_

What were your most successful recycling efforts and least effective? \_\_\_\_\_

What regulations or conditions in the last decade have most affected your operation (beneficially or adversely)? \_\_\_\_\_

What changes to your recycling program are currently being considered?

\_\_\_\_\_

How might the State Planning Office assist you in your operation?

1. Communication \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Facility Layout – Efficiency \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Support – Community \_\_\_\_\_

2. Committee Work \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Operation – Technical \_\_\_\_\_

How can the State of Maine reach its 50% Recycling Goal? We would appreciate hearing from you.

**Thank you**

**Please fold and return completed survey by August 12, 2005**

**Maine State Planning Office  
Waste Management & Recycling Program  
38 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0038  
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8934  
[www.recyclemaine.com](http://www.recyclemaine.com)**

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## NERC Event Recycling Project Studies First Maine Event



**Crowd awaits the Bath Heritage Day Parade**

The Bath Heritage Days and their Fourth of July celebration was the focus of event recycling studied in a project being conducted by the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). Following Monday's crowds, the Bath Waterfront Park became the scene of a waste audit to analyze the previous days' trash from samples collected around the community. While the task of sorting the waste was observed by only a curious few, as the carnival packed up to move on to their next event, five serious workers recorded their data. Peter Allison, the consultant from DSM Environmental Studies, Mary Ann Relmolador, project director from NERC, Leslie Trundy from Main Street Bath, and Henry Mann, a young enthusiastic volunteer from Bath, were joined by Bruce White from the State Planning Office.



The project which is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture is to study 2 events in each of the Northern New England States - Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Each state has identified a community celebration, such as Maine's Bath Heritage Days, and an agricultural fair, such as the Clinton Lions Club Agricultural Fair which is up-coming in September. The results will be crafted into a best management practices document that will improve or implement recycling at such events. This project is important for raising awareness, improving recycling and waste reduction, and offering an opportunity to educate a large audience.

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### Recycling at the Local Level Assessed by the Maine Resource Recovery Association

The Atlantic Oaks marked the site of the annual conference of the Maine Resource Recovery Association. More than 140 registrants were hosted by MRRA and their sponsors for the two day event beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Bar Harbor that focused on local needs. Featured speakers were: Representative Ted Koffman, House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee of Natural Resources and faculty member at the College of the Atlantic; and Kevin Roche, newly appointed General Manager of Regional Waste Systems. These two leaders set a tone of both challenge and optimism from the state and regional perspective for the municipal point of view of the future of waste management and recycling in Maine. Participants visited in forums to share issues and investigate solutions.

The Mount Desert location was appropriate, especially for prompting those from island communities to sit down together and exchange horror stories along with successful accomplishments. It is commonly known that success and ease is often contingent upon location, location, location, which becomes a precious consideration to the populous of an island. This group also was particularly sensitive to problems arising from the seasonal fluctuation of the population that is shared by almost every community in Maine. Is there any community in Maine that doesn't feel the affects of being located in Vacationland?

The event did provide many different things for each attendee. Most came away with a sense of importance in their efforts – no matter where they were located. There was also a feeling of accomplishment by the event organizers in knowing that the true contribution of an association is providing the assurance that no one operation need stand alone in their efforts.

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## ANNUAL REPORT TOWN OF ENFIELD 2004-2005



Mallorce's January MRW2005 Calendar poster became the cover illustration for this year's town report.



### A Little Help Please!

We would like to know:

- What schools recycle?
- Where are they located?
- Who makes recycling presentations in schools?
- What grades?
- How many know of teachers who have recycling units in their program?

We would like to ask anyone who knows of local schools with recycling programs to please send us a message to [bruce.white@maine.gov](mailto:bruce.white@maine.gov).